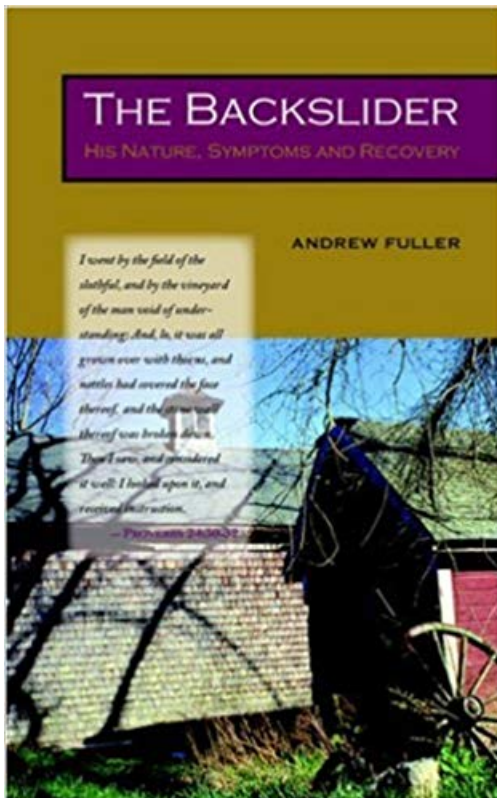


The Backslider: His Nature, Symptoms and Recovery *by* Andrew Fuller, John Angell James



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"ANDREW FULLER was, in my opinion, one of the greatest theologians, which modern times, or any times have produced, and his writings are an almost inexhaustible mine of doctrinal, practical, and experimental truth, which every Christian and especially every minister, would do well to explore. No man better understood the bible, or the human heart both in its un-renewed and its regenerate state. Among all his various practical treatises, there are few, if any, of greater value than that on BACKSLIDING. Like a most skilful physician, he explains, with singular ability, the nature of the disease, lays down the symptoms of it, and prescribes the method of recovery." - John Angell James
"Andrew Fuller (1754-1815) was an outstanding figure with qualities that make him one of the most attractive figures in Baptist history. Many in his day could echo the words of his very close friend William Carey , 'I loved him.' The Backslider: or an Inquiry into the Nature, Symptoms, and Effects of Religious Declension, with the Means of Recovery was originally published in 1801. Fuller's work, though, has stood the test of time and well merits the description by John Ryland as 'an invaluable piece of practical divinity.'" - Michael Haykin



Reviews of the **The Backslider: His Nature, Symptoms and Recovery** by Andrew Fuller, John Angell James

Fenius

Fuller, Andrew: *The Backslider: His Nature, Symptoms, and Recovery* with biographical sketch by Michael Haykin and introduction by John A. James

I found this book on the subject of backsliding to be very helpful. Having seen some folks become backsliders it was an honest account of them but it is helpful also in encouraging watchfulness so that I myself do not backslide. The author writes with a balanced and I would argue biblical point of view. He holds to the sovereignty of God as taught in Calvinism namely the perseverance of the saints, but does not neglect the teachings on backsliding showing how it may show that one was never a Christian but also that a true Christian will come to repentance. Fuller says, "Backsliding, it is true, always supposes a profession of the true religion; but it does not necessarily suppose the existence of the thing professed."

The book has a helpful biographical sketch and then is four chapters. The author looks at what a backslider is in general first. Secondly he looks at the symptoms of backsliding which is basically not repenting of sin and how we may think that we have but what unrepented sin looks like. He then shows the dangers effects and consequences of unrepented or what he calls "sin lying upon the conscience unlamented". Finally in the last chapter He discusses the means to recovery from this state. The helpful lines in this book are too many to quote here.

I read this book under the recommendation of Dr. James Renihan and Michael Gaydosh's compiled list of a year with Baptist classics. I'm am enjoying finding the great theology in Baptist history.

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watching to future

An excellent excellent work. I would recommend this to every believer. Convicting. Concise. Brief. Much more readable than a work like "The Mortification of Sin" by John Owen.

Some of my favourite quotes:

"The species of backsliding are various, some respect doctrine, others practice, but all are the operations of a heart departing from the living God."

"A backsliding spirit first appears by a relinquishment of evangelical doctrine. Where truth is treated merely as a matter of speculation, or as an opinion of no great moment, it is not held fast; and where this is the case, it is easily surrendered.

Where the principles of the gospel are abandoned, the spirit of prayer and of all close walking with God will go with it.

Backsliding, it is true, always supposes a profession of the true religion, but it does not necessarily suppose the existence of the thing professed."

" If the depravity of the human heart be not subdued by the grace of God, it will operate."

"All true repentance is followed by a forsaking of the evil. Where this effect is not produced, there can be no Scriptural ground to hope for forgiveness."

"When men can talk and even write of their former wicked courses with lightness, it is a certain proof that whatever repentance they had, they do not at present repent of it."

"True repentance will not only teach us to shun the way of evil, but to be averse to every avenue that leads to it."

"of all the methods which God takes to punish sin, there is none more awful and more dreaded by a good man, than that of being given up to sin."

"so long as sin lies unlamented upon the conscience, we can have no Scriptural foundation to conclude that we are Christians."

"If we confess our sin with contrition, we may be certain it is not unpardonable, and that we shall obtain mercy through the blood of the cross."

"Sin is of a hardening nature, and the farther we have proceeded in it, the more inextricable are its chains. - backslider

God's Word hid in the heart is not only a preservative against sin, but a restorative from it."

"The very exercise of prayer carries in it an implication that our help must come from above."

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